

tation that the General Assembly will make up all differences, may lead to indolence in their manner of support. It violates a law of nature and attempts to level up by making young and struggling institutions equal to the old that have borne the heat and burden of the day. It tends to divide the church into parties which rally round particular colleges; whereas all the members of the church should be taught to feel that all colleges are their own and to take pride in them as their common property and entitled, as their schools of the prophets, to their common sympathies, their contributions and their prayers. It leads to what may become an unseemly attempt at each meeting of Assembly on the part of the friends of each College to secure, by representations framed for that purpose as large an amount as possible from the common fund. And it is a *failure*; for at last Assembly the revenue of Montreal was supplemented from the territories assigned to Queen's and Knox Colleges.

The simplest, most just, and most obvious solution of this question seems to be an equal division of the general fund among the three colleges of Toronto, Kingston and Montreal. Upon the supposition that the union is a really accomplished fact these colleges belong to the whole church, and have no claim to be dealt with in any other way than any other interest of the Church. Whatever local liberality may be evoked by the energy of the boards of these colleges or by the efficiency of their teaching they may be left to enjoy. Nothing will be done to discourage or restrain special liberality. Those who have done much in the past will not be led to feel that what they have done has only served to deprive them of the beneficence and encouragement of the Church during the present. There will be no necessity of presenting special claims or making special representations. A feeling of the oneness of the Church in the hearts of the people will be cultivated and preserved by contributions flowing into a common fund and receiving an equal disbursement. The colleges will become a bond of union and not a wedge of separation. The friend of any particular college will be aware that the more he gives the more his favourite college will receive. The colleges, instead of being a stumbling block, will become a common interest and a source of unity and strength; while a healthy rivalry will be promoted in a way safe to the church; and if at any time in the future an amalgamation such as has been proposed should be desired, the way will have been paved for such a consummation.

A. P.

## Our Home Missions.

THE Maritime Committee met in Halifax on the 24th ult. Letters were read from Rev. Messrs. Melville, of New Kincardine, Creelman, of Bay of Islands, and Cruickshank, of Bett's Cove, all presenting satisfactory evidences of progress. Resolutions of approval passed and were ordered to be transmitted to these brethren for their encouragement in holding the important posts which they occupy. The requests of Presbyteries for student-catechists having been submitted, were met by the appointment of 39 young men, chiefly theological students, from Halifax, Queen's College, Montreal, Princeton and New York, fully meeting all that Presbyteries had asked for. Of these young evangelists 12 were from the Halifax Theological Hall, 9 from Queen's College, 1 from Montreal, 5 from New York, 3 from Princeton, 4 chiefly Gaelic-speaking students from Dalhousie College, and 2 lay catechists. The account at date shows a balance on hand of \$352, which was quickly utilized—five hundred being voted for Manitoba College, the remainder to meet outstanding accounts.

BAY OF ISLANDS, Newfoundland. The Presbyterian congregation here is prospering. A small church has been completed and a manse is shortly to be commenced. Rev. D. F. Creelman, our minister there, is doing admirable pioneer work. Far away from Bay of Islands, but still in the bounds of Newfoundland, is Betts' Cove, famous for its mineral wealth. Rev. Mr. Cruickshank has been there during the winter, and has gathered around him a prosperous colony of Presbyterians. Both these brethren are likely to continue their labours in the Presbytery of Newfoundland.

LABRADOR has claims on our Church which have not yet been fully recognized. Occasionally, and rarely, missionaries for our Church have spent a few months among the fishermen, with good results; but it is felt more and more that regular and ample provision should be made for the spiritual necessities of the people.

OUR HOME MISSIONARY STAFF.—In addition to our 700 ministers in charges, we have at present very nearly 250 labourers in our vast Home Mission Field as follows:—100 appointed by the committee for the Western section, 39 by that for the Eastern section, 40 by the French Evangelization Board, and 70 on the Probationer's list.